



DOMINICK PANGALLO

MAYOR

Salem Public Art Commission  
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## Public Art Commission

January 21, 2025

6:30pm

Meeting held remotely via zoom

### MEETING MINUTES

**Note:** All proposals, presentations, and/or documentation to be reviewed and discussed at this meeting can be viewed online at the following link:

<https://bit.ly/SalemPACProposals>

**Meeting called to order at 6:46pm.**

**Roll Call PAC:** Jim Bostick, Becky Fisher, Carly Dwyer Naik, Gwendolyn Rosemond, Bryan Apito, Hannah Gathman.

**Absent:** Norene Gachignard.

**Also Present:** Staff: Julie Barry, Senior Planner; Aubrey Clark, Clerk.

- **Meeting Minutes Approval – November 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes**  
*Motion to approve the November 19, 2024 meeting minutes is made by Gwendolyn Rosemond, seconded by Carly Dwyer Naik and passes 6-0.*

- **Gift of Art – Mayoral Portrait of Kimberley Lord Driscoll**

Julie Barry initiates discussion by providing background information regarding the history of Salem mayoral portraits. The mayoral portrait of Kimberley Lord Driscoll is being donated to the City by former Mayor Driscoll. The Public Art Committee is required to formally accept the portrait for the City to accept it into the collection and care for it.

Julie Barry shares an image of the portrait with the Committee. Jim Bostick notes that Thomas Darcy, the portrait's creator, is a local Salem Artist. Becky Fisher asks about the process involved with the acceptance and maintenance of previous portraits. Julie Barry notes that previous portraits had been restored by means of funding provided by a CPA grant. Mayor Driscoll's portrait will be the first portrait accepted since the creation of the PAC (and therefore under the

supervision of the PAC). Julie Barry also notes that no specific conservation protocol or maintenance plan has been outlined for the existing collection of portraits, and suggests that the PAC look into creating one using the existing conservation and maintenance budget. Becky Fischer notes the difference in potential costs between maintaining older portraits and newer ones, such as Mayor Driscoll's.

Jim Bostick asks if there is a separate budget for conservation and maintenance. July Barry replies that the PAC is allotted \$35,000 annually, \$10,000 of which is earmarked for conservation and maintenance.

July Barry shares a document with information about Mayor Driscoll's Mayoral Portrait. This includes the former Mayor's title and years of service, the painting's dimensions (framed and unframed), medium, year completed, and estimated value.

*Motion to approve the Mayoral Portrait of Kimberley Lord Driscoll is made by Carly Dwyer Naik, seconded by Hannah Gathman and passes 6-0.*

- **Return to In-Person Meetings & Meeting Timing Conversation**

The State allowance for remote public meetings will run out in March 2025 without legislative action. This will require the PAC to return to in-person meetings, with a possible hybrid option. The State and City each have different requirements for how many council/board members can be remote for a meeting to be hosted, with the State requiring a quorum to be present in person and the City requiring all members but one.

Julie Barry asks if members of the PAC are able to commit to returning to in-person meetings, and if any members would be interested in a shift of time/day of week to accommodate that change. In-person meetings will be held in City Hall Annex in the Conference Room beginning April 2025.

Jim asks if the City Hall Annex will be able to house every public meeting for the City. Julie Barry explains that the City Hall Annex's Facilities Manager organizes the building's public meetings through a large calendar, and has a number of conference spaces available. This should allow the City to accommodate all of its public meetings.

Carly Dwyer and Becky Fisher both note that their work schedules and their being working parents will make an adjustment to in-person meetings challenging.

Julie Barry notes that the requirement to return to in-person meetings is a State mandate, with the City unable to impact the policy. Julie Barry also notes that she is not certain of the attendance requirements for the in-person meetings, and that they should be verified. Carly Dwyer notes that requiring in-person

attendance could limit access for some members of the public, as well as potential PAC members.

Bryan Apito notes that Tuesday is an inconvenient day for his schedule, suggesting Wednesday as an alternative day for the PAC to meet. Hannah Gathman requests that the meetings remain on Tuesdays.

Bryan Apito asks if meetings would still allow members of the public to attend via Zoom. Julie Barry notes that unless the State allows for a hybrid option, the meetings would not allow for remote viewing by members of the public. Jim Bostick notes that the City's conference rooms may not be large enough to allow members of the public to attend. Julie Barry reiterates that the decision to return to in-person meetings is one that is being handled at the State level, out of the City's jurisdiction.

Jim Bostick and Gwen Rosemond note that they are both fairly flexible with their schedules.

Julie Barry notes that a member of the public suggests members of the PAC petition elected officials at the State level to retain remote meetings.

Jim Bostick notes that hybrid meetings can be difficult to manage and often experience technical difficulties.

- **Project Updates & Other Business**

Public Art Mini Grant Review: The deadline for Public Art Mini Grant applications is January 31st. Julie Barry asks the PAC how it would like to undertake reviews of the Public Art Mini Grants, suggesting a review committee in favor of direct reviews during the February PAC meeting. Julie Barry also asks which members would like to be involved in the review process.

Hannah Gathman volunteers to serve on a review team for the Mini Grants but notes that she will be out of town for part of February.

Julie Barry notes that the Mural Slam and Art Box applications will not be ready for review by the February meeting, but that the PAC will be reviewing the calls-for-artists for each project at that time.

Jim Bostick asks how many Public Art Mini Grants are normally received. Julie Barry notes that the PAC usually receives between 2-10 applications each year.

Julie Barry suggests that the review process could take between an hour to an hour and a half.

Becky Fisher volunteers to serve on a review team for the Mini Grants.

Carly Dwyer volunteers to serve on a review team for the Mural Slam or Art Boxes, not the Mini Grants due to possible conflicts of interest with friends applying for the grant.

Julie Barry notes that reviews for Mural Slam and Art Box submissions will likely happen around late February / early March.

Jim Bostick volunteers to serve on a review team for the Mini Grants but notes he will be busy during February.

Gwendolyn Rosemond volunteers to serve on a review team for the Mini Grants.

Bryan Apito volunteers to serve on a review team for the Mini Grants.

The review process for the Public Art Mini Grants will take place between February 6th-13th. The Mural Slam and Art Box will have a call later, done in partnership with ArtsFest and the Creative Collective. Some members of the PAC with a representative of Salem Mainstreets and the Creative Collective review the submissions. In previous years, overflow submissions for the Mural Slam have been offered Art Boxes. Julie Barry offers to have a separate call and review panel for Art Boxes this year since there is a separate rate established for that project. Current funding for this year is: \$600 for each Mural Slam and \$650 for Art Box. Julie Barry asks members of the PAC their opinions on making a separate call and review for each project.

Jim Bostick notes a preference for the existing overflow system, while having an interest in a separate call for the Art Boxes.

Hannah Gathman notes that separating the two projects, with different rates for each, may reduce the pool of applicants for the lower rate project (Mural Slam) as more artists apply for the project with the higher rate (Art Box).

Bryan Apito asks how many Art Boxes would be completed in this year, and if the applicants need to be Salem residents. Julie Barry notes that the PAC anticipates 4 Art Boxes to be painted this year and that applicants do not need to be Salem residents.

Jim Bostick asks how well the process has worked in previous years, offering Mural Slam applicants work on Art Boxes. Julie Barry replies that applicants have been very eager to take up work on Art Boxes in place of Mural Slam projects.

Julie Barry suggests that a note be added to the end of the Mural Slam application explaining the offer for artists to work on Art Boxes. Julie Barry also suggests asking Salem Mainstreets, who currently host the website where applicants submit their application, to include an option where applicants can request consideration for both projects.

Jim Bostick notes his concern that having two separate, simultaneous calls for artists and reviews may confuse applicants and lead to more work for the PAC.

Bryan Apito asks where the Mural Slam project is housed. Julie Barry replies that the murals are housed on the walls at Artists Row, then provides a brief update on the state of the murals.

Public Art Policies - Accessioning and Deaccessioning Plan: Julie Barry is planning to revise that plan with the intent of making it more appropriate for the City of Salem.

Becky Fisher volunteers to help Julie Barry with that plan.

Old Town Hall Restoration: The exterior restoration will be proceeding with the first phase – the base contract and both alternates. A fully preserved, weather sealed property with period accurate windows and two new accessible entrances by June 30th 2025. Jim Bostick asks what the status of the Hall will be during the Arts Festival. Julie Barry responds that the Hall will be in operable order by that time, with most of the exterior restoration complete. Bryan Apito asks what process was undertaken to obtain the contract for the restoration. Julie Barry provides details on the process and the contractor.

Charlotte Forten Park: The sails for the shade structure just arrived at the park. A new bronze plaque should arrive for installation early next week to replace the previous plaque which was not cut to fit correctly. Anthem will return in May to reactivate the park through December 2025.

Jim Bostick asks about the renewal of the contract for Anthem, the group currently contracted to activate the space in Charlotte Forten Park. Julie Barry clarifies that Anthem currently has a two-year contract, which may have an option to renew for a third year based on their performance near the end of 2025.

Gwen Rosemond asks about the community involvement in the contract renewal process. Julie Barry notes that she believes Anthem has faced challenges in their activation from operations issues with the City, and that this may have led to a poor reaction from the community. Julie Barry notes that she is optimistic about Anthem's activation in the space in the coming year. Gwen Rosemond notes that the community's response to Anthem's activation has been largely negative, and that more communication from the City may help to address the discontent.

Jim Bostick asks to see the design of the shade structure for Charlotte Forten Park. Julie Barry notes that the Design Review Board has access to the designs, but that she does not have the designs herself. She offers to share the designs with the PAC.

- **Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at 7:57pm**

Motion to adjourn is made by Gwendolyn Rosemond, seconded by Carly Dwyer Naik, and passes 6-0.

*Persons requiring auxiliary aids and services for effective communication such as sign language interpreter, an assistive listening device, or print material in digital format or a reasonable modification in programs, services, policies, or activities, may contact the City of Salem ADA Coordinator, as soon as possible and no less than 2 business days before the meeting, program, or event.*

*Know your rights under the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. c. 30A § 18-25 and City Ordinance § 2-2028 through § 2-2033.*